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SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/251,125 05/31/94 NILSEN

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EXAMINER  
SHINGLETON, M

BSM1/0305

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

7

OLE K. NILSEN  
CAESAR DRIVE  
BARRINGTON, IL 60010

2502

DATE MAILED: 03/05/96

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.  
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

☐ This application has been examined ☒ Responsive to communication filed on 11-30-95 ☒ This action is made final.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), 0 days from the date of this letter.  
Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

**Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:**

- ☐ Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892.
- ☐ Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152.
- ☐ Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474.
- ☐

**Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION**

1. ☒ Claims 1-10 are pending in the application.

Of the above, claims \_\_\_\_\_ are withdrawn from consideration.

2. ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ have been cancelled.

3. ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are allowed.

4. ☒ Claims 1-10 are rejected.

5. ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are objected to.

6. ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

7. ☐ This application has been filed with Informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes.

8. ☐ Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.

9. ☐ The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on \_\_\_\_\_. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are ☐ acceptable; ☐ not acceptable (see explanation or Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948).

10. ☐ The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on \_\_\_\_\_, has (have) been ☐ approved by the examiner; ☐ disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).

11. ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed \_\_\_\_\_, has been ☐ approved; ☐ disapproved (see explanation).

12. ☐ Acknowledgement is made of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has ☐ been received ☐ not been received ☐ been filed in parent application, serial no. \_\_\_\_\_; filed on \_\_\_\_\_.

13. ☐ Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

14. ☐ Other

**EXAMINER'S ACTION**

Serial Number: 08-251,125  
Art Unit: 2502

-2-

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

The specification is objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as the specification, as originally filed, does not provide support for the invention as is now claimed.

Applicant sets forth an impossibility in newly presented claims 9 and 10. There will always be a load across two nodes that will drop the voltage across these two nodes. ?

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for the reasons set forth in the objection to the specification.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Wallace in view of Pierce.

Serial Number: 08-251,125  
Art Unit: 2502

-3-

Wallace discloses all aspects of the claimed invention except for the use of protection means that limits the output magnitude of the inverter's output to a value lower than that if there were no protection means.

Pierce clearly discloses that in a resonant inverter arrangement like that of Wallace the removal of the lamp can cause the transistors of the inverter to destroy themselves. The solution to this problem is to provide a protection circuit connected to the output part and the inverter part of the electronic ballast. See column 4, around line 15.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Wallace with a protection circuit connected between the resonant output and the inverter so as to protect the circuit from self-destruction as taught by Pierce.

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(d)(1) and M.P.E.P. § 608.01(1). Correction of the following is required: The "first sub-circuit", "second sub-circuit", "third sub-circuit", "fourth sub-circuit", and "fourth sub-circuit".

Applicant's arguments filed 11-30-1995 have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive.

The examiner respectfully disagrees with applicant that the added limitations that patentably define over that of Wallace and Pierce.

Applicant ignores the requirement to correct the specification of the instant application. Applicant is warned that failure to correct the specification in response to this office could result in the abandonment of the instant application.

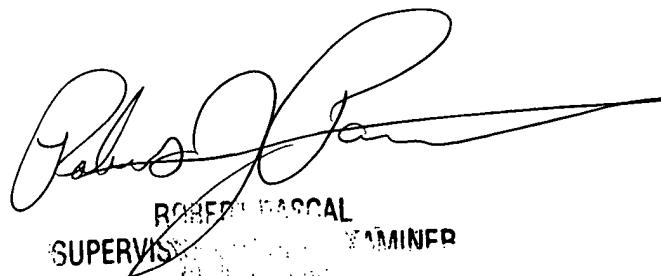
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Michael Shingleton whose telephone number is (703) 308-4903.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Serial Number: 08-251,125  
Art Unit: 2502

-4-

Shingleton  
March 2, 1996

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Pascal", written over a rectangular stamp.

ROBERT PASCAL  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
GROUP 2500

ROBERT PASCAL  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
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